



College of Political Science

Department of International Relations & Diplomacy

University of Salahaddin-Erbil

Subject: Strategy: Principles and theory

Course Book – Second Year – First Semester

Lecturer's name: Dr. Zubir R. Ahmed

Academic Year: 2020/2021

Course Syllabus Template

1. Course name	Strategy: Principles and theory
2. Lecturer in charge	Zubir R. Ahmed
3. Department/ Faculty	International Relations& Diplomacy
4. Contact	e-mail: zubir.ahmed@su.edu.krd Tel: 00964 750 4493478
5. Time (in hours) per week	Theory: 3 hours Practical: 0
6. Office hours	I am available at 10:00 am to 2:00pm each Thursday
7. Course code	
8. Teacher's academic profile	<p>Zubir is a Lecturer at Salahaddin University and at the same time a visiting lecturer at Soran University. He has research expertise in International Relations and Security Studies, with particular attention to Iraq, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Syria, and has a special interest in Kurdish political dynamics.</p> <p>Zubir obtained his B.A. and M.A in Political Science from Salahaddin University in Erbil, and his PhD from the University of Exeter, UK after successfully submitting a thesis entitled “<i>Rebuilding the Iraqi State: The Regional Dimensions of Ethnic & Sectarian Conflict in Post-2003 Iraq</i>”.</p> <p>He has been a lecturer at Salahaddin University since 2009. Zubir was research fellow at Middle East Research Institute and a Board Member of Center for Studies and Survey (SARINJ) from 2006 to 2011, and an Editor at Iraq Media Net. He is a regular columnist at Rudaw and other KRI-based outlets). Zubir authored the book “<i>Civil Society and State, Problematic Relations- Iraq as a case study</i>” 2010 (in Arabic).</p>
9. Keywords	Strategy, Strategic culture, Strategic Theories, National Interests and Global Security.
10. Course overview:	<p>The intent of this Class is to give a very brief discussion of certain aspects of political strategy in their ideal forms, and then discuss strategic planning from a very high level of conceptualization. Basic ideas about strategic culture, what is and what is not. The roots of strategic planning are to be found in the identification of an objective, and the processes used in planning and how to attain it. Some lectures will be dedicated for strategic studies in general and its differences with international relations and security studies.</p>

Some of the best policy-makers, however, look to the objective for their inspiration while planning. This is the optimum mode of strategic planning, and is successful more often than not. It does not, however, start at the very beginning of the strategic planning process. Strategic planning begins with organization. Before anything else, or at least in tandem with the formulation of an objective, roles and responsibilities must be given to those who will work in the execution of operations that will eventually end in the attainment of an objective.

Furthermore, the last three weeks will be dedicated to Iranian and Israel strategy in the in the Middle East.

11. Course objective:

The main objective of this course is to study and analyze Strategy, Theories of strategy and its Principles. Furthermore, understanding types of strategy, and its developments. This course examines the key political strategies, concentrating particularly on the most effective scholars that working in the field of strategic studies.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Students will be able to define most of the related concepts to strategy.
- Students will gain an understanding of the developments of strategy.
- Student will read and analyze seminal works of influential scholars in the field of strategic studies.
- Students will study the major theories and principles of strategy.
- students will be able to explain the difference between strategic studies and security studies.
- Students will be able to categorize types of political strategy.
- Learners will be able to accurately describe Priorities for sub strategies.
- Learners will be able to categorize states strategies according to the principles of strategy.

12. Student's obligation

- Attend to all lectures.
- Pass exams that related to this subject.
- Students also have to get 50 or more than 50 to pass the exams.
- Students may obligate to write an essay for this module or have a midterm exam.
- Each student will present a seminar in this course.
- The students have to participate in weekly discussions

13. Forms of teaching

During this course I am using:

- Power point and data show.
- White board.
- Sound systems and present videos if necessary.
- Group working and discussion.

- Doing seminars and presentations each week in order to involve the wider number of students in the discussion.

14. Assessment scheme

Students will get their grade:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| • Midterm exam | %40 |
| • Participation and class activities | %10 |
| • Final exam | %60 |

15. Student learning outcome:

If you complete the course successfully, you should be able to:

- Identify and critically assess the political strategy and its theories.
- Discuss the contexts, pressures and constraints with which foreign policy makers have to deal
- Contrast and compare the strength of theoretical approaches used in political strategy analysis.
- Good knowledge about the strategy and its developments and other
- Understanding levels of Strategic Planning

16. Course Reading List and References:

- M.L.R SMITH, 2011, Strategic Theory: What it is...and just as importantly, what it isn't. <<<https://www.e-ir.info/2011/04/28/strategic-theory-what-it-is...and-just-as-importantly-what-it-isn't/>>>.
- Harry R. Yarger, Strategic Theory offer the 21st Century: The Little Book on Big Strategy (Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute, 2006), p. 2.
- Michael Howard, The Causes of War (London: Counterpoint, 1983), p. 86.
- Lyndsey Harris, 'Introducing the Strategic Approach: An Examination of Loyalist Paramilitaries in Northern Ireland', British Journal of Politics and International Relations', Vol. 8, No. 4 (2006), p. 542.
- M.L.R. Smith, Fighting For Ireland? The Military Strategy of the Irish Republican Movement (London: Routledge, 1995), p. 3.
- Catley, C., 2014, Strategic Planning - Why Do We Need It? Available online: <https://www.strategyblocks.com/blog/why-we-need-to-do-strategic-planning/#:~:text=It%20brings%20a%20sense%20of,their%20efforts%20into%20meeting%20them.>>>.

17. Lectures:	Topics
Week 1	Introduction to strategy
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy between military and politics - relationship between strategic studies and security studies - Nature of Strategic Studies - Key Concepts: Strategic Studies - Strategic Culture - The Levels of Strategic Planning
Week 2.	Political Strategy
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The beginning developments of the strategy - The distinction between strategy and tactics - Clausewitz's definition of strategy - Strategy can be multipurpose - Basic principles of strategy formulation
Week 3.	Types of strategies
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy of unpredictability - Strategy of disinformation - Offensive approach, supplying false information
Week 4	Priorities for sub strategies
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the use of resources - How do we set these priorities? - Destroy the opponent's alliances - Some strategies that can be adopted in response to alliances: - A populist strategy. - Formulation of strategies - Evaluating strategy formulation
Week 5	Strategic Theory
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Assumptions of Strategic Theory

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The study of the political actor as the central unit of analysis - Understanding the political actor's value system and preferences - An actor's interest will be influenced by the wider strategic environment - The actor is behaving rationally in pursuit of its aims - The acceptance of clashing interest
Week 6	What Strategic Theory Is Not
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic theory is not just the study of military power - Strategic theory is not necessarily strategic studies - Strategic theory is not the same thing as security studies - Strategic theory is not the study of 'strategic culture' - Strategic theory is not game theory
Week 7	Strategy to Global Security
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outward v Inward Strategy - model for development of national security - National interests - Geography and Strategy - The Lay of the Land
Week 8	Maritime Strategy
Topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alfred Thayer Mahan - Foundations for Maritime Strategy - The Indian Ocean - Strategic Importance of the Indian Ocean - The Sea as the Highway - Sea Power
Week 9	Command of the Air
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frontier: Space War

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - War by Other Means: Cyberspace
Week 10	The Role of Intelligence in National Security
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discursive representations - Intelligence Collection disciplines - Intelligence Process (1) Stage - Intelligence Process (2) Failures - Legal and Ethical Issues Involving Intelligence - Convert Action or Specials Activities
Week 11	Iran's Strategy in the Region
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iran's Strategic Intent - Stages - Hybrid Warfare Strategy - Shape of Strategy - Action's as protection - Regional strategic assessment: the Shia element - Offensive and Defensive Strategy
Week 12	Israel's National Security Strategy
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History - Security Challenges - The nature of external threats to the State of Israel - Military principles are as follows - Israel's security strength issues - Israel's National Security Strategy - The National Security Establishment
Week 13	Final Exam
<p>19. Examinations: Some examples: Q1: What is the difference between strategy and tactic? Q2: How you differentiate between strategic studies and security studies? Q3: How do we set strategic priorities?</p>	

Q4: What Strategic Theory Is Not?

Q5: Why states need strategic planning?

Q6: How you assess Israel's National Security Strategy?

20. Extra notes:

No comment.

21. Peer review

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

Course policies are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check with international relations department staff for corrections or updates to the syllabus. There might be some changes and amendments to the syllabus according to the subject's needs, and this will be discussed in advance with students.

For further details about this course please get in touch with faculty department.